

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-11 /087 W

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R 160900Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2137

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

UNCLAS DURBAN 0085

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, SF

SUBJ: BUTHELEZI CALLS FOR BLACK CONVENTION

REF: LONDON 3986

1. IN HIS SECOND MAJOR STATEMENT IN LESS THAN A WEEK, CHIEF GATSHA BUTHELEZI ON MARCH 14 TOLD 16,000 AFRICANS IN JOHANNESBURG'S LARGE TOWNSHIP OF SOWETO THAT THE "BURNING ISSUE" IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WAS MAJORITY RULE AND THAT WHITES MUST LEARN TO READ THE "WRITING ON THE WALL." CALLING THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO PRODUCE DETENTE BETWEEN WHITE AND BLACK AFRICANS A FAILURE, BUTHELEZI BLUNTLY WARNED THAT "THE MAJORITY OF BLACKS WILL NOT FIND IT IN THEIR HEARTS TO DIE ON THE COUNTRY' BORDERS TO DEFEND A SYSTEM THAT IS MORALLY REPUGNANT."

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BUTHELEZI CLAIMED THAT BLACKS DESPISE SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT AND

IN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO TRANSKEI AND BOPHUTHATSWANA HOMELANDS, WHICH HAVE OPTED FOR INDEPENDENCE, CHALLENGED ANYONE TO PROVE THAT "THE MAJORITY OF BLACKS WANT THE SO-CALLED INDEPENDENCE WHICH IS OFFERED TO OUR RESERVES NOW CALLED HOMELANDS."

2. BUTHELEZI REITERATED HIS CALL, ISSUED EARLIER IN JOINT STATEMENT WITH CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE LEADER BEYERS NAUDE (REFTEL), FOR BLACK CONVENTIONS ON ECONOMIC AND OTHER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS. BLACKS CANNOT AFFORD TO WAIT FOR THE NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT TO INCLUDE THEM IN SOUTH AFRICAN DECISION-MAKING PROCESS, HE EMPHASIZED, BUT INSTEAD MUST "ACT UNILATERALLY." HE URGED THAT FIRST CONVENTION, DEALING WITH ECONOMIC QUESTIONS, TAKE PLACE IN AUGUST OF THIS YEAR.

3. AS HE HAS IN THE PAST, BUTHELEZI OPINED THERE WAS STILL TIME FOR PEACEFUL CHANGE BUT PLACED THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR AVOIDING BLOODSHED SQUARELY ON SHOULDERS OF WHITES. HE CHARGED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND FOREIGN POLICIES ARE ALL IN FACT DESIGNED TO PERPETUATE MINORITY RULE.

4. COMMENT: FOR THE PAST YEAR BUTHELEZI HAS BEEN PREOCCUPIED WITH BUILDING UP SUPPORT AMONG ZULUS FOR INKATHA, HIS POLITICAL-CULTURAL MOVEMENT, AND HAS MADE RELATIVELY FEW PUBLIC STATEMENTS. WITH INKATHA FAIRLY WELL ORGANIZED AT THIS TIME, BUTHELEZI'S STATEMENT WITH NAUDE AND HIS SPEECH IN SOWETO DOUBTLESS PREFIGURES SHIFT IN TACTICS TO IMPRESS MORE DRAMATICALLY UPON WHITES REALITY OF AFRICAN BITTERNESS WITH SOUTH AFRICAN SYSTEM. FURTHER ANALYSIS AND TEXT OF SPEECH BY SEPAIR. FARBER

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